IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 98, 113, 127, 139, 152, 168 and 182 as follows:

1.-97. (Canceled)

98.   (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a server providing a web page accessible by customers;

a storage device storing a program;

a processor in communication with said storage device, said processor operative with said program to:

receive a conditional purchase offer including an offer price from a customer utilizing said web page for purchasing travel services;

receive a payment identifier specifying a financial account for use in providing guaranteed payment for at least the amount of said offer price for said travel services if said conditional purchase offer is accepted;

compare said conditional purchase offer with seller inventory and seller pricing information stored on a central reservation system to determine if said conditional purchase offer is acceptable;

accept said conditional purchase offer on behalf of the seller;

create a passenger name record;

transmit said passenger name record to said central reservation system;

charge said payment identifier for said offer price; and

notify the customer of acceptance of said conditional purchase offer.

99.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 98 wherein said processor accesses information on said central reservation system for each seller in a predefined sequence.

100.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 99 wherein said predefined sequence is based upon the historical acceptance rate of each seller.

101.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 99 wherein said predefined sequence is based upon seller-negotiated priorities.

102.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 99 wherein said predefined sequence is based upon the commission rates paid by the seller.

103.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 98, wherein said conditional purchase offer includes an expiration date.

104.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 98, wherein said seller inventory and pricing information includes seller-defined rules.

105.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 98, wherein the customer accesses said web page using a web browser.

106.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 98, wherein the customer accesses said web page which displays an electronic form containing a number of blanks to be filled out by the customer, the blanks representing conditions of the conditional purchase offer.

107.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 98, wherein said financial account is a debit account.

108.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 98, wherein said financial account is a credit account.

109. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 98, wherein said processor is further operative with said program to pre-authorize said offer price of said conditional purchase offer with a financial clearinghouse.

110. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 98, wherein said goods or services includes at least one of an airline ticket, an automobile, insurance, computer equipment and a hotel accommodation.

111. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 98, wherein said processor is further operative with said program to obtain pre-authorization to charge said financial account for said travel services prior to consideration of the conditional purchase offer.

112. (Canceled)

113. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a server providing a web page accessible by customers;

a storage device storing a program;

a processor in communication with said storage device, said processor operative with said program to:

receive a conditional purchase offer including an offer price from a customer utilizing said web page for purchasing at least one airline ticket;

receive a payment identifier specifying a financial account for use in providing guaranteed payment for at least the amount of said offer price for said at least one airline ticket if said conditional purchase offer is accepted;

compare said conditional purchase offer with airline inventory and airline pricing information stored on an airline reservation system to determine if said conditional purchase offer is acceptable;

accept said conditional purchase offer on behalf of the seller;

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create a passenger name record;

transmit said passenger name record to said airline reservation system;

charge said payment identifier for said offer price; and

notify the customer of acceptance of said conditional purchase offer.

114. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 113 wherein said processor accesses information on said airline reservation system for each seller in a predefined sequence.

115. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 114 wherein said predefined sequence is based upon the historical acceptance rate of each seller.

116. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 114 wherein said predefined sequence is based upon seller-negotiated priorities.

117. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 114 wherein said predefined sequence is based upon the commission rates paid by the seller.

118. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 113, wherein said conditional purchase offer includes an expiration date.

119. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 113, wherein said seller inventory and pricing information includes seller-defined rules.

120. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 113, wherein the customer accesses said web page using a web browser.

121. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 113, wherein the customer accesses said web page which displays an electronic form containing a number of blanks to be filled out by the customer, the blanks representing conditions of the conditional purchase offer.

122. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 113, wherein said financial account is a debit account.

123.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 113, wherein said financial account is a credit account.

124.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 113, wherein said processor is further operative with said program to pre-authorize said offer price of said conditional purchase offer with a financial clearinghouse.

125.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 113, wherein said processor is further operative with said program to obtain pre-authorization to charge said financial account for said travel services prior to consideration of the conditional purchase offer.

126.   (Canceled)

127.   (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a storage device storing a program;

a processor in communication with said storage device, said processor operative with said program to:

receive a conditional purchase offer including an offer price from a customer for purchasing at least one airline ticket;

receive a payment identifier specifying a financial account for use in providing guaranteed payment for at least the amount of said offer price for said at least one airline ticket if said conditional purchase offer is accepted;

compare said conditional purchase offer with airline inventory and airline pricing information stored on an airline reservation system to determine if said conditional purchase offer is acceptable;

accept said conditional purchase offer on behalf of the seller;

create a passenger name record;

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transmit said passenger name record to said airline reservation system;

charge said payment identifier; and

notify the customer of acceptance of said conditional purchase offer.

128.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 127 wherein said processor accesses information on said airline reservation system for each seller in a predefined sequence.

129.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 128 wherein said predefined sequence is based upon the historical acceptance rate of each seller.

130.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 128 wherein said predefined sequence is based upon seller-negotiated priorities.

131.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 128 wherein said predefined sequence is based upon the commission rates paid by the seller.

132.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 127, wherein said conditional purchase offer includes an expiration date.

133.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 127, wherein said seller inventory and pricing information includes seller-defined rules.

134.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 127, wherein said financial account is a debit account.

135.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 127, wherein said financial account is a credit account.

136.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 127, wherein said processor is further operative with said program to pre-authorize said offer price of said conditional purchase offer with a financial clearinghouse.

137.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 127, wherein said processor is further operative with said program to obtain pre-authorization to charge said financial account for said travel services prior to consideration of the conditional purchase offer.

138.   (Canceled)

139.   (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a storage device storing a program;

a processor in communication with said storage device, said processor operative with said program to:

receive a conditional purchase offer including an offer price from a customer for purchasing travel services;

receive a payment identifier specifying a financial account for use in providing guaranteed payment for at least the amount of said offer price for said travel services if said conditional purchase offer is accepted;

compare said conditional purchase offer with seller inventory and seller pricing information stored on a central reservation system to determine if said conditional purchase offer is acceptable;

accept said conditional purchase offer on behalf of the seller;

create a passenger name record;

transmit said passenger name record to central reservation system;

charge said payment identifier; and

notify the customer of acceptance of said conditional purchase offer.

140.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 139 wherein said processor accesses information on said central reservation system for each seller in a predefined sequence.

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141.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 140 wherein said predefined sequence is based upon the historical acceptance rate of each seller.

142.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 140 wherein said predefined sequence is based upon seller-negotiated priorities.

143.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 140 wherein said predefined sequence is based upon the commission rates paid by the seller.

144.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 139 wherein said conditional purchase offer includes an expiration date.

145.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 139 wherein said seller inventory and pricing information includes seller-defined rules.

146.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 139 wherein said financial account is a debit account.

147.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 139 wherein said financial account is a credit account.

148.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 139 wherein said processor is further operative with said program to pre-authorize said offer price of said conditional purchase offer with a financial clearinghouse.

149.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 139 wherein said travel services includes at least one of: an airline ticket and a hotel accommodation.

150.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 139, wherein said processor is further operative with said program to obtain pre-authorization to charge said financial account for said travel services prior to consideration of the conditional purchase offer.

151.   (Canceled).

152.   (Currently Amended) A method for using a computer to process the sale of travel services, comprising:

receiving a conditional purchase offer including an offer price from a customer utilizing a web page for purchasing travel services;

receiving a payment identifier specifying a financial account for use in providing guaranteed payment for at least the amount of said offer price for said travel services if said conditional purchase offer is accepted;

comparing said conditional purchase offer with seller inventory and seller pricing information stored on a central reservation system to determine if said conditional purchase offer is acceptable;

accepting said conditional purchase offer on behalf of the seller;

creating a passenger name record;

transmitting said passenger name record to said central reservation system;

charging said payment identifier; and

notifying the customer of acceptance of said conditional purchase offer.

153.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 152 further comprising accessing information on said central reservation system for each seller in a predefined sequence.

154.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 153, wherein said predefined sequence is based upon the historical acceptance rate of each seller.

155.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 153, wherein said predefined sequence is based upon seller-negotiated priorities.

156. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 153, wherein said predefined sequence is based upon the commission rates paid by the seller.

157. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 152, wherein said conditional purchase offer includes an expiration date.

158. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 152, wherein said seller inventory and pricing information includes seller-defined rules.

159. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 152, wherein the customer accesses said web page using a web browser.

160. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 152, wherein the customer accesses said web page which displays an electronic form containing a number of blanks to be filled out by the customer, the blanks representing conditions of the conditional purchase offer.

161. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 152, wherein said financial account is a debit account.

162. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 152, wherein said financial account is a credit account.

163. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 152, further comprising pre-authorizing said offer price of said conditional purchase offer with a financial clearinghouse.

164. (Canceled)

165. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 152, wherein said processor is further operative with said program to obtain pre-authorization to charge said financial account for said travel services prior to consideration of the conditional purchase offer.

166. (Canceled).

167. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 152, wherein said travel services includes at least one of: an airline ticket and a hotel accommodation.

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168.   (Currently Amended) A method for using a computer to process the sale of travel services, comprising:

receiving a conditional purchase offer including an offer price from a customer for purchasing travel services;

receiving a payment identifier specifying a financial account for use in providing guaranteed payment for at least the amount of said offer price for said travel services if said conditional purchase offer is accepted;

comparing said conditional purchase offer with seller inventory and <u>seller</u> pricing information stored on a central reservation system to determine if said conditional purchase offer is acceptable;

accepting said conditional purchase offer on behalf of the seller;

creating a passenger name record;

transmitting said passenger name record to said central reservation system;

charging said payment identifier; and

notifying the customer of acceptance of said conditional purchase offer.

169.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 168 further comprising accessing information on said central reservation system for each seller in a predefined sequence.

170.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 169, wherein said predefined sequence is based upon the historical acceptance rate of each seller.

171.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 169, wherein said predefined sequence is based upon seller-negotiated priorities.

172. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 169, wherein said predefined sequence is based upon the commission rates paid by the seller.

173. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 168, wherein said conditional purchase offer includes an expiration date.

174. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 168, wherein said seller inventory and pricing information includes seller-defined rules.

175. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 168, wherein said financial account is a debit account.

176. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 168, wherein said financial account is a credit account.

177. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 168, further comprising pre-authorizing said offer price of said conditional purchase offer with a financial clearinghouse.

178. (Canceled)

179. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 168, wherein said processor is further operative with said program to obtain pre-authorization to charge said financial account for said travel services prior to consideration of the conditional purchase offer.

180. (Canceled).

181. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 168, wherein said travel services includes at least one: airline ticket and a hotel accommodation.

182. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a server providing a web page accessible by customers, the server comprising: a storage device storing a program;

a processor disposed in communication with said storage device, said processor operative with said program to:

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receive a conditional purchase offer including an offer price from a customer utilizing said web page for purchasing travel services;

receive a payment identifier specifying a financial account for use in providing guaranteed payment for at least the amount of said offer price for said travel services if said conditional purchase offer is accepted; and subsequently:

compare said conditional purchase offer with seller inventory and seller pricing information stored on a central reservation system to determine if said conditional purchase offer is acceptable;

accept said conditional purchase offer on behalf of the seller;

create a passenger name record;

transmit said passenger name record to said central reservation system;

charge said payment identifier for said offer price; and

notify the customer of acceptance of said conditional purchase offer.